

1 I claim:

2 1. A data input system comprising:

3 a keypad defining a plurality of keys, wherein each key contains at least
4 one symbol of a group of symbols, said group of symbols divided into
5 subgroups comprising at least one of alphabetical symbols, numeric symbols,
6 and command symbols, wherein each subgroup is associated with at least a
7 portion of a user's finger; and

8 a finger recognition system in communication with at least one key of
9 said plurality of keys, wherein said at least one key has at least a first symbol
10 from a first subgroup and at least a second symbol from a second subgroup,
11 wherein said finger recognition system is configured to recognize said portion
12 of said user's finger when said finger interacts with said key so as to select said
13 symbol on said key corresponding to the subgroup associated with said portion
14 of said user's finger.